

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-17 remain in the application. Claims 1-17 are subject to examination. Claim 1 has been amended.

Please note that applicant amended page 5, lines 5-8 of the application to better define that language which may help in understanding the invention. No new matter is believed to have been entered, merely a rephrasing of the material has occurred.

In item 2 on pages 2-4 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1-5, 7 and 9-17 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,708,209 to Ebata et al. (hereinafter Ebata) under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and claim 1 of the instant application has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. Support for the changes is found on page 12, lines 7-19 of the specification of the instant application and from a general reading of the specification. From the specification of the instant application, one sees that resources within the subregions will not be considered. On page 12, lines 7-

19 of the specification, it is disclosed that only a check for sufficiently available transmission system resources between a first and a second subregion causes a decision whether to indicate available or not available transmission system resources (additionally see also page 11 for the definition of TR as the transmission system resources needed or available between the first and second subregions).

Claim 1 of the instant application differs from the disclosed methods and systems of Ebata (US 6,108,209 B 1) in that only the transmission system resources available between the subregions will be considered. The transmission system resources available within each of the subregions are disregarded.

Disregarding the available transmission system resources for a connection within each of the subregions prevents one from performing quality of service processing for connections within a single subregion but allows one to consider connections with a source and a destination in different subregions. Therefore the number of connections to be processed for assuring quality of service can be reduced. In the case of connections from one subregion to a different one the method according to claim 1 of the instant application allows one to consider only that link of the connection path, that is between the subregions and to disregard the links of

the connection path within the subregions.

This reduces the complexity of the authorizing check on whether the transmission system resources available between the subregions are sufficient for the requested resources.

Therefore this reduces the management efforts for assuring the quality of service of connections between subregions, because a simplified network topology is good enough as a basis to evaluate and to assure the quality of service for these connections.

Limiting the authorization processing to resources merely between the subregions takes into consideration that for actual network configurations two local networks of a company or an organization are often connected via a public network. Typically the provided transmission resources within the local networks are substantially more extensive than the provided transmission resources of the public network. For such a scenario, the provided transmission resources of the public network turn out to be the limiting factor for the quality of service for the connection. Claim 1 of the instant application specifically provides features for assuring the quality of service of connections between subregions taking into account the mentioned actual inter-network configurations with two local networks and a public

network and allowing a significant simplification of the process of assuring the quality of service for inter-network connections.

In contrast, Ebata discloses a network system in which a quality-guaranteed path will be calculated and set for intra- and inter-network communication (see abstract). Furthermore Ebata discloses a policy holding unit to hold a policy defining a quality that can be guaranteed in its own network and a guaranteed quality calculation unit to calculate a quality that can be guaranteed for the path between a local network and another network (see column 2, lines 5-16). No suggestion can be found in Ebata that only the path between the subregions should be considered and the path within the subregions could be disregarded. Ebata even shows in one of its embodiments that a band upper limit is determined for each of the links incorporating a connection independently whether the links are within local networks or between local networks (see Fig. 15, with a 5.8 Mbit/s band upper limit within organization A and a 2.7 Mbit/s band upper limit within organization C). Additionally Ebata gives an example that band upper limits of links inside organizations are evaluated and considered to find the band upper limit for the overall connection from a host located in one network to a host located in another network (see column 11, lines 30-44).

But Ebata does not give any indication that would lead one of average skill in the art to disregard transmission system resources available within each of the subregions for the authorizing check of a connection to be initialized.

In regards to claim 2 of the instant application, the Examiner states that "the feature of 'using only one quality of service assuring unit for several subregions' was not cited" in claim 2 and that "limitations from the specification are not read into the claims". Applicant agrees with this statement that this limitation is not directly recited in claim 2 but notes an advantage that the features of claim 2 provide and believes that this advantage cannot be ignored.

In item 4 on pages 4-5 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 6 and 8 have been rejected as being obvious over Ebata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,708,209 to Li et al. (hereinafter Li) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 6 and 8 ultimately depend on amended claim 1. Amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable and therefore claims 6 and 8 are also believed to be allowable.

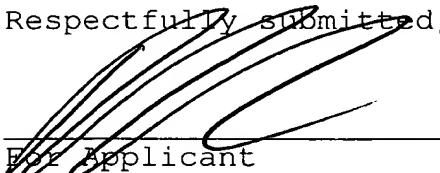
It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-17 are solicited.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Please charge any other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


For Applicant

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